

## NEW ACTION LIKELY ON C.I.A. LEGISLATION

Bills Stalled by Liberals This Term  
Are Expected to Be Debated  
by Incoming Legislators

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 — Skillful legislative stalling by liberals sidetracked an array of proposals in Congress earlier this year that, the liberals asserted, would "unleash" the Central Intelligence Agency. But with Republicans taking control of the White House and the Senate, measures to allow the agency to operate more freely are expected to get a new lease on life next year.

Senator John H. Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in an interview before the election that he intended to re-introduce and push for passage of a bill that he sponsored this year to protect the identities of intelligence agents.

The measure would forbid officials or former officials with access to classified information to reveal the identity of covert intelligence agents. A controversy arose over another provision that would have extended the criminal penalty to private citizens even if they deduced the identities from nonclassified material.

A spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, Morton H. Halperin, said it was very likely that legislation to exempt a large part of C.I.A. records from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act would also be re-introduced in the next Congress.

### Provisions to Limit Disclosures

Mr. Halperin said his organization would vigorously oppose any provisions in such legislation that it felt posed a threat to freedom of speech and other Constitutional civil rights.

He said it was "not at all clear" that the incoming 97th Congress would necessarily be more responsive than the outgoing, Democratic-controlled 96th Congress to such measures as the one to exempt the intelligence agencies from provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Several Senate staff members from both political parties emphatically disagreed. The staff members, who asked that their names not be used, said they expected that most of the legislation sought by those who favor a relatively unencumbered intelligence community would pass, possibly by imposing margins.

Two key Senate committees dealing with such legislation will be led by Senators who this year indicated strong support for such measures. Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, is replacing Senator Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, who lost his re-election effort, as the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman. Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, will become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, replacing Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who bottled up the Chafee bill this year.

In various public statements, Ronald Reagan, some of his closest national security advisers and some other members of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees have expressed a desire to see more vigorous and aggressive agency operations.

### Change in Congressional Oversight

Conservative committee members have insisted that they are as committed as anyone to effective Congressional overseeing and to preventing intelligence agency abuse.

A relatively unpublicized but significant action of the present Congress has altered the method of continuing Congressional scrutiny of the intelligence agencies. The Intelligence Oversight Act of 1980 eliminated the authority of six Congressional committees to oversee the intelligence agencies, but established the continuing right of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees to monitor the work of those agencies. The bill passed both committees unanimously and was hailed as a milestone by conservatives and liberals alike.

The two committees do not have and have not sought any veto power over the workings of the C.I.A., including its covert operations abroad. The 1980 act would permit the President in some cases to avoid giving prior notice to Congress of such clandestine operations. But the act does provide that the committees are to be "fully and currently" informed on all workings of the intelligence community. By agreement, Congress does not seek to know the names of secret agents and exact sources of information.

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